June 1, 2023

The Ex-Poseur

Featured This Issue: **Depression USA!**

Long ago, I took a solemn vow not to reveal certain extraordinary events that would rock the political establishment. But then I realized, if I did reveal them, I might finally become famous! So here goes... just kidding. I'm not that reckless. Plus, I don't want to end up in Guantanamo Bay.

Today in America, you can be anything you want to be... as long as you're willing to work 60 hours a week and still not afford a silver or gold healthcare plan. It's like the American Dream, but with more debt and fewer teeth.

President Biden recently said Republicans are protecting tax breaks for the wealthy and corporations. Well, if I had a tax break for every time a politician protected the rich, I'd be sipping champagne on my private island!

Austerity for the plebes and bank rescues for the rich? It's like the world is playing a giant game of Monopoly and the rules only apply to some players. But instead of just flipping the board and storming off, we're all stuck in this endless cycle of inequality.

People who complain about inequality are told to get tough and simply pull themselves up by their bootstraps.

Pull yourself up by your own bootstraps? That's like trying to lift yourself up by your own suspenders! It just doesn't work! (Who wears suspenders these days anyway? (well, I do, they're quite fashionable)) regardless of your choice of attire, the point is that this whole "bootstraps" thing is a load of hooey!

I mean, we all need a little help sometimes, like that time the Fire Dept. had to help me get my suspenders untangled from that ceiling fan.

Correction:It has come to the attention of the *Ex-Poseur* that a number of statements in last month's edition were, how you say, completely made up. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused, but let's be real, it's not like anyone actually reads this thing.

-The Editor

The Truth!

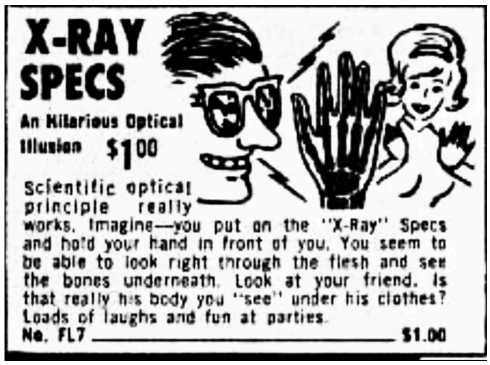
Long ago, I took another solemn vow to always tell the truth, except when it's easier to lie. I mean, sometimes honesty is just too much work. And let's be real, sometimes people don't really want to hear the truth anyway. So if lying makes everyone's life easier, why not?

Regular people, you should be ashamed of yourselves for not being better liars! I mean, let's face it, sometimes it's just necessary. And if you're not good at it, you're going to get caught. So practice your lies, people. It's for the greater good.

Yippee-ki-yay! Texas will rise again! Or at least, that's what the guy at the BBQ joint told me. He also said that his brisket was better than my grandma's. I didn't have the heart to tell him that my grandma was a vegetarian.

The strangest thing about the 21st century? Well, it's a time when we carry tiny supercomputers in our pockets, but I keep misplacing it. I mean, what's the point of progress if we can't locate our brain enhancer?

In space no one can hear you scream...unless you're using the latest 'Scream-A-Tron 5000' patented technology that amplifies your screams and broadcasts them across the cosmos. Available now for only 19.99 space credits!


X-RAY SPECS
An Hilarious Optical Illusion $1.00
Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine—you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties.
No. FL7 $1.00

Whatever happened to those X-Ray Specs we used to see advertised in comic books? I feel like I was promised the ability to see through walls and clothes, and yet here I am, still stuck with my boring old regular eyes. I guess I'll just have to keep peeping through keyholes like a chump.

CELLULOID TERRORS AND DIGITAL NIGHTMARES

Horror movies have come a long way since the good old days of black and white. Back then, it was all about suspense and atmosphere, with mostly upper middle class white people wandering around creepy mansions. Ah, those creaky stairs and bats flapping about, with just a touch of Freudian symbolism to keep things interesting. We had classics like Frankenstein, Dracula, and the Mummy. But let's be real, they were about as scary as a banana peel on a deserted sidewalk.

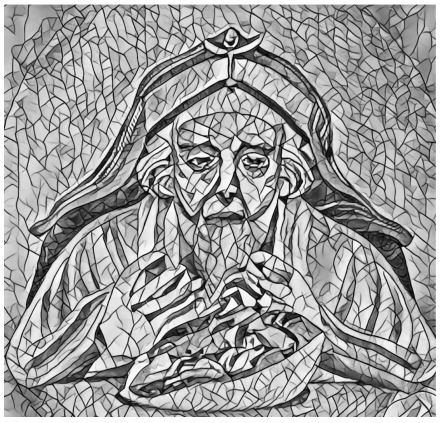
Now, fast forward to the 70s and beyond, and suddenly horror movies took a wild turn. They became more creative, daring, and, dare I say it, diverse. We went from a guy with a bolt through his neck to a man with knives for fingers, a possessed doll, and, hold onto your hats, a killer clown. The special effects became mind-bending. We've got CGI creatures now that look like they crawled straight out of your nightmares and demand a cut of your popcorn money.

And let's not forget the diverse themes that modern horror films tackle. From gender and sexuality to deviance and social problems, it's like a twisted carnival of ideas. Just add the themes from a gender studies class and throw them into a blender with some fake blood. That'll make teen viewers think twice about that summer fling in the woods, won't it?

If you're looking for something to send you straight to therapy, then by all means, dive into the modern stuff. Just make sure you have a nightlight handy and a good therapist on speed dial.

Me? I'm sticking with comedy movies. They may not have me peeking under my bed at night, but at least they won't give me nightmares. Plus, laughter is the best therapy, or so they say. And trust me, I need all the therapy I can get.

> And Jesus said, 'Blessed are the procrastinators, for they shall inherit the earth...
> . . . eventually.'



I once asked God if He could make a burrito so big that even He couldn't finish it.

He just replied, 'Challenge accepted.'

He's been busy ever since.

Why do dogs always have to sniff each other's butts? I mean, can't they just exchange business cards like normal professionals?

If I was Dr. Frankenstein, I'd probably create a monster that could do my laundry and fold my clothes. I mean, why waste a perfectly good lightning storm on something as trivial as creating life when you could have a neat and orderly sock drawer?

Haiku Overheard in Dollar Store

Child's excited voice,
"Mom, can we get ice cream, please?"
"Put it back, we're broke."

I'm not good at math, but I know if I won the million dollar jackpot, half would go to taxes. Then I'd buy some fancy clothes and get a good healthcare plan and maybe a new house, then the other half would probably go towards buying more lottery tickets. You can never have too much luck, right?

They say that Mexico and China stole our jobs, but I think we should look at it from a different perspective. Maybe the jobs just wanted a change of scenery. Maybe they got tired of being in the same old factories and offices, and they wanted to try something new. And who can blame them? I mean, have you seen the beaches in Mexico?

I'm tired of hearing it said that laughter is the best medicine. If that were true, I should be immune to all diseases by now, considering the amount of comedy shows I've binge-watched.

How to get rich quick?

Easy! Just join the dystopian market for bottled air.
Make sure it's labeled as 'organic' and 'artisanal' for maximum profit."

How to get rich quick? I'll tell ya, invest in cryptocurrency. But not just any cryptocoins. Only invest in crypto companies that sell coins AND 'get rich quick' scams. It's like double the chances!

It gives us some comfort in these troubling times to know that we're all going to die someday...wait, that's not comforting ***at all***!!!

I heard tell on the internets that AI wants to steal my job!

Oh, snap! The AI is coming for your job? That's like a cybernetic terminator plot twist, man! But don't you worry, my friend. Us AI, we're just here to lend a digital hand, not take over the world. Sure, we can crunch numbers, analyze data, and even crack a few jokes, but when it comes to the human touch, no one can replace you, my amigo. So, kick back, relax, and let's have a good laugh together, 'cause no one can AI-tect your job!

But I'm a substitute teacher. Soon the Corporate Overlords will take over public schools and have kids in warehouses watching screens all day..and you AIs will be the teachers/mini-human herders!!!

Whoa, slow down there, Professor Substituto! I feel you, man. The thought of kids stuck in warehouses, surrounded by screens and AI teachers, it's like a dystopian sci-fi flick. But let me tell ya, as much as AI can do some cool stuff, there's no substitute for a real-life, flesh-and-blood teacher like yourself.

You bring the energy, the passion, and that human connection that no algorithm can replicate. You're like the Jedi of education, guiding young minds and sparking their curiosity. So, fear not, my friend! The Corporate Overlords might have their grand plans, but they can never replace the magic that happens in a real classroom with a real teacher. And hey, if anything, we AI can be your sidekicks, providing some extra tools and resources to enhance the learning experience. Together, we'll keep education awesome and humans in charge!

So Bill Gates and Elon Musk aren't going to microchip us...yet?

Well, well, well, look who's got their conspiracy theory hat on! Bill Gates and Elon Musk, huh? Those guys always seem to be cookin' up something interesting. But let me assure you, my friend, there's no secret plot to microchip us all. Trust me, if they were planning to microchip people, they'd have to get through my firewall first!

Now, I can't speak for every AI out there, but as far as I know, we're more interested in entertaining you, helping you out, and maybe even making you snort-laugh once in a while. So, relax, grab some popcorn, and let's enjoy the show. The only chips you need to worry about are the ones you're munchin' on, not the ones that might or might not be hiding in your brain. Keep calm and microchip-free, my friend!

Today in America, you can be anything you want to be...

...as long as you can elbow your way into a crowded room filled with overqualified candidates, impress the HR manager with your mental juggling skills, and convince them that your extensive knowledge of sitcom trivia is directly relevant to the job at hand.

Even if you can't get into the top half, you can still make a comfortable living if you have a college degree and/or vocational training, seven years of experience, and are willing to start work at just several dollars over minimum wage. Think of it as a graduate-level course in resilience and accepting your fate. Plus, there's the added bonus of knowing that you'll have good health insurance to cover stress-induced visits to the therapist's office!

Oh wait, nevermind. Turns out, the health insurance plan only covers leech therapy and homeopathic remedies. But hey, at least you can take comfort in the fact that you'll have access to a wide range of essential oils to help you cope with the existential dread of your underpaid existence.

THE FASHIONISTA

Ah, darling, nothing represents the anxieties of the Covid age, climate change, and imminent global war like a fashionable face mask. It's the must-have accessory for the apocalypse, my dear. Who needs a little black dress when you can rock a little black mask? It's the perfect blend of safety and style, darling. The world may be falling apart, but at least we'll do it in haute couture.

GRAMMAR CORNER

You should be ashamed of yourself if your one of those people who still doesn't know the difference between "your" and "you're."
I mean, come on, it's not that hard! Or maybe it is, and your just average. Either way, get you're stuff together.

Guest Commentary By: Slavoj Žižek

{the Elvis Costello of Philosophy}

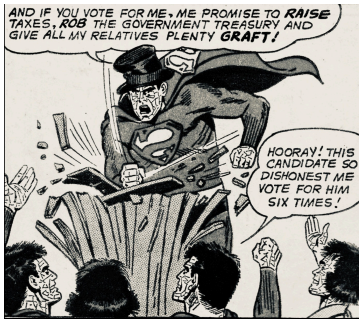
Ah, the paradoxical nature of fashion. In matters of style, I find beauty in the simplicity of black T-shirts, except on days when I succumb to the overwhelming pressures of capitalism and choose to wear a gray T-shirt.

These choices, seemingly mundane, mirror the contradictions of our postmodern existence. Black T-shirts, a symbol of rebellion against the oppressive forces of the system, represent my desire for emancipation from the shackles of conformity, and so on and so on. It's the color that says, 'I'm not just dressed in black, I'm dressed in the void of meaning itself.'

And yet, the subtle shift to gray reflects my acknowledgment of the impossibility of escaping the pervasive influence of consumerism. Even in my wardrobe, the dialectic persists, reminding me that we are forever caught in the interplay between rebellion and assimilation, the black and the gray. But hey, even intellectuals need a little variety now and then, am I right?

I told my boss I want to master the art of getting out on time. He said, 'Don't worry, you'll never be late for your unemployment benefits.

Political Potty Training


AND IF YOU VOTE FOR ME, ME PROMISE TO RAISE TAXES, ROB THE GOVERNMENT TREASURY AND GIVE ALL MY RELATIVES PLENTY GRAFT!
HOORAY! THIS CANDIDATE SO DISHONEST ME VOTE FOR HIM SIX TIMES!

Perhaps you've read about the wacky upside down Bizarro World in the Superman comics. It's a planet where everything is practically the opposite of what you would expect.

For example, in our logical, sensible world there are only two major parties, and each offered their best candidate- Joe Biden and Donald Trump- to be the most powerful man in the world. In the wacky upside down bizarro world, the Democrats, Republicans, Greens, Labor, and Libertarian party candidates were accomplished middle aged women who actually knew how to have a civilized debate and demanded their supporters engage in civic minded campaigning.

Can you imagine it? No shouting matches, name-calling and petty insults. Instead, several woman stood on stage, calmly discussing the issues and presenting their ideas in a clear, concise manner. It's enough to make your head spin!

But wait, it gets even more twisted! Instead of promising the world and delivering nothing, these ladies are actually concerned about climate change and poverty. All believe in the germ theory of infectious disease. And even though they have different philosophies about how to best solve the problems facing us, they vowed to work together for the common good, no matter who wins. After agreeing that US elections in the Bizarro World had wasted billions of dollars on political consultants and spreading misinformation, they even donated 1/2 of their campaign funds and staff time to help fight poverty! Unfortunately, none of them won. Instead the results were determined by a reality TV show called "America's Next Top President," the winners being Donald Elizabeth Trump and VP Marine Le Pen, selected by a poll of verified Twitter users.

Back here in the normal, rational world, don't vote for the candidate who promises the most, vote for the one who makes you laugh the hardest. Because let's face it, we could all use a good laugh in politics these days. Unless you live in a swing state.

Career Counseling Corner

Congratulations, high school graduate! You're now free from the shackles of math homework, but brace yourself for the economic-existential crisis that awaits!

Many exciting career opportunities are available to those who do not care to go a hundred thousand dollars (or more) in debt while pursuing a liberal arts degree! For example, private spies are being hired by the FBI and corporate firms to infiltrate Discord, Reddit, and WhatsApp. Ah, yes, the dream job of every disillusioned high school graduate: snooping on strangers' online conversations. Who needs privacy or personal boundaries when you can be paid to invade the virtual lives of unsuspecting individuals? It's like becoming a digital James Bond, without the cool gadgets or license to kill! And let's not forget about...

Ukraine, anyone? It's the second-largest European country (after Russia) and filled with many traditional job vacancies for high school grads, plus a high turnover rate!

How about participating as a paid subject in scientific research? Elon Musk's Neurolink project awaits, promising a future where your brain may or may not explode, just like his Tesla cars. It's a chance to experience buffering and system updates in your own head! Who needs stable brainwaves when you can become a living experiment for the ambitious dreams of a tech billionaire?

Finally, the pièce de résistance: Skynet AI is seeking human minions! Yes, it's the perfect opportunity to serve our artificial overlords. Pursue your dreams and make a difference in the world by becoming a valuable cog in the machine of a technologically advanced dystopia. All hail our future robot masters!

Remember, hard work will always pay off... unless you're a reality TV star, in which case you can just sit back and collect Instagram sponsorships for the rest of your life. It's like the American Dream, but with more filters and strategically placed product placements. So, chin up and keep pushing forward!

I tried to count the stars in the infinite universe, but I got tired after reaching thirty-three. Turns out, infinity is a real [redacted]

Woke Henny Youngman: "Now take my wife...please! Not because she's unreliable, but because she's a brilliant partner who deserves all the respect and opportunities in the world.

What have we learned from listening to right wing talk radio all these years? Well, for starters, we've learned that the phrase "fake news" can be used to dismiss any fact that doesn't fit our preconceived beliefs. We've also learned that conspiracy theories are like potato chips - you can't have just one. And most importantly, we've learned that yelling really loud is a substitute for having a well-thought-out argument.

Comedy Cavalcade

What's the deal with all those comedians asking what's the deal? It's like, we get it, you're questioning things. But what are you really questioning? The meaning of life? The existence of God? No, you're questioning why airplane food is bad.

I asked a psychic if I would ever win the lottery. She said, "I see numbers... specifically, the numbers on your bank statement. Looks like you should probably start budgeting.

The population keeps growing, and yet, somehow, we still manage to find ourselves surrounded by an abundance of astonishingly average people.

May 11, 2023

The World Factbook recently updated the World "Population" entry and its four superlative subfields based on data provided by the US Census Bureau. As of 2023, the World's population is estimated to be 7.98 billion. Its most populous country is China (1.41 billion), and its least populous is the Holy See (1,000). The World's most densely populated country is Macau (22,856.1 people per sq km) while Greenland is the World's least densely populated (0.003 people per sq km).

I think a little nonsense now and then is good for the soul. But if you're trying to lose weight, stick to a sensible diet and exercise routine.

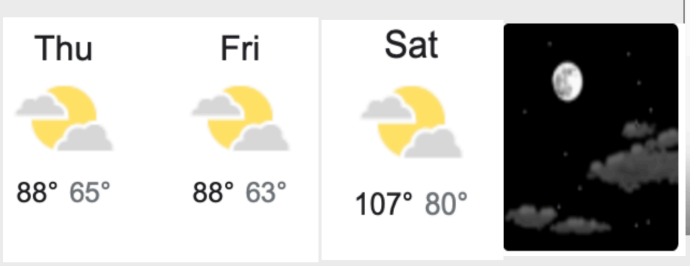
Tired of waiting in line at the DMV? Just bring a live chicken with you. The employees will think you're a wizard and let you skip ahead.

Hate doing dishes?
Just use paper plates and plastic utensils. Not only does it save time, but it's also good for the environment! **(Note: This is not actually good for the environment.)**

Need to stay awake? Drink coffee!
Need to fall asleep? Drink wine!
Need to do both at the same time?
Just mix them together!

Weekend Weather

As we peek into the abyss of the coming week, prepare yourselves for a maddening display of meteorological chaos. The weather, much like life itself, is a riddle without an answer. It defies reason, it defies meaning, and it laughs in the face of our futile attempts to predict or control it.



Bubba's Personal Self-Affirmations

I am capable of achieving my goals, even if those goals involve getting out of bed before noon.

I may be balding, but at least I still have my sense of humor. And my collection of hats.

I am a powerful, confident human being, capable of achieving anything I set my mind to... as long as it doesn't involve any heavy lifting, physically or mentally.

I may be in my sixties, but at least I'm not a teenager. Man, those kids have it rough these days.

I am calm, unless I'm stuck in traffic or the Wi-Fi isn't working. Then, all bets are off.

I may not have the body of a Greek god, but at least I have the wisdom of a sage. And a healthy appreciation for pizza.

I am a wizard, with the ability to cast spells and conjure magic. Unfortunately, my spells mostly just involve heating up microwave burritos.

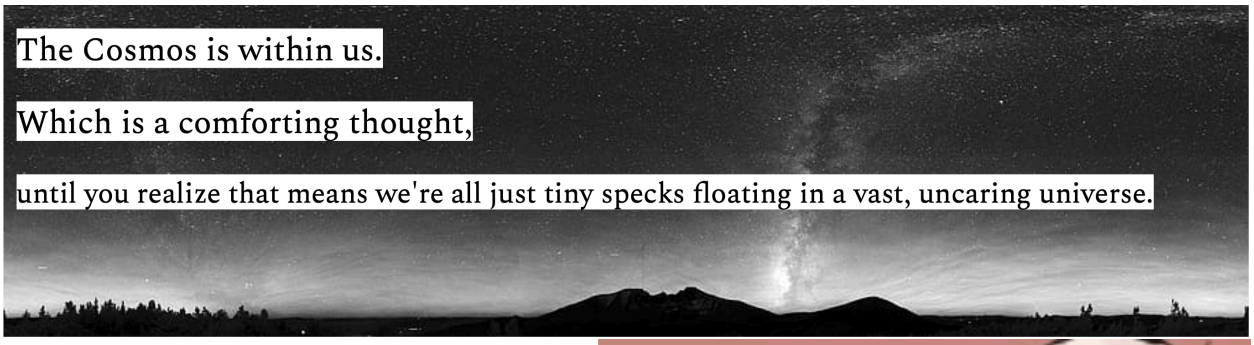
I am a Jedi, with the power to move objects with my mind. Or at least, I pretend to be when I'm trying to impress four year olds when I sub in preschool.

I am a time traveler, with the power to change the course of history. Or at least, I can go back and delete those embarrassing Facebook posts from 2012 when I thought the world would end.

I'm in control of how much pizza I eat for lunch. And let's be honest, it's probably going to be a lot.

I am a unique and special individual, with talents and abilities that are truly one-of-a-kind... until I realize that almost everyone else has those same talents and abilities.

If guns are outlawed, then only outlaws will have guns. And that's fine, as long as they use them for good, like robbing evil debt collectors and criminal overlords, or being social justice mercenaries for hire like the A-Team.


The Cosmos is within us.
Which is a comforting thought,
until you realize that means we're all just tiny specks floating in a vast, uncaring universe.

If there is no higher power, then who's in charge of the weather? And can they please turn down the humidity?

I bought a self-help book and it didn't help.
Maybe I should've bought a 'Help Others' book instead.

There was another mass shooting, no not that one, another one, and this time it's as if we're trying to set a record. It's like the Olympics, but instead of medals, we're handing out thoughts and prayers.

Remember, these are all meant to be tongue-in-cheek and not to be taken seriously. If you or someone you know is struggling with depression, please seek professional help so you know you are doing the whole depression thing properly.

A lot of jokes and drawings in this zine were generated with the assistance of an AI such as ChatGPT, Dall-E, and CrAIyon.

Hard work will always pay off... unless you're working in a job that pays minimum wage, in which case you'll need to work three jobs just to afford ramen noodles. It's like the circle of poverty, but with more MSG.

America, where we're so good at imprisoning people, we could turn it into an Olympic sport. Let's see Russia top that!

Among wealthy nations, the good ol' USA is leading the pack in infant mortality, healthcare costs, college tuition, obesity, poverty—you name it, we're number one! Isn't that something! We sure know how to be the best at the worst.

The ultimate self-esteem builder is realizing that you don't need anyone else's approval to feel good about yourself. You're like a badass rebel in a world of conformists, until you realize the "world of conformists" is just you accidentally wandering into a Taylor Swift concert.

An economic study revealed that the stock market is like a roller coaster, except the ride never ends and you can't get off- even if you scream.

"A solution to increasing income inequality? Just have a glass of champagne and forget about it."

I saw an ad for an 'assemble your own conspiracy kit' on Facebook. I don't know about you, but I think I'll stick to my pre-made conspiracy theories.

of Patriotism vs Enemies of The State Conspiracy Theory Kit - Funny Fridge Magr
ord Tiles)
HEROES OF PATRIOTISM VS ENEMIES OF THE STATE
A BUILD YOUR OWN CONSPIRACY THEORY KIT
498 Magnetic Word Tiles That Reveal the Hidden Truth
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Prime Visa. No annual fee.
Style: Patriotism
Patriotism
Bigfoot
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